





Washington, D.C.

**Executive Registry** 

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## SECRET/SENSITIVE

TO: NSC - Mr. Robert Kimmitt (8512012)
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JCS - Major Michael Emerson (8512014)
CIA - (8512015)

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SUBJECT: Meeting between the Secretary and Ambassador Dobrynin:
April 18: Nicholson Shooting

Attached is a report of the April 18 discussion between the Secretary and Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin as it related to the shooting of Major Arthur D. Nicholson in East Germany on March 24.

Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

Attachment: Report of Discussion

DECL:OADR



Drafted: EUR/CE: JGallup EUR/SOV: AVersabow Cleared: EUR/CE: JKornblum

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Shultz-Dobrynin Exchange on Nicholson Shooting April 18, 1985

During their meeting April 18, the Secretary cited the murder of Major Nicholson as an example of Soviet actions that threaten prospects for constructive relations, and said the US continued to believe the Soviets owed us an apology and compensation for Major Nicholson's family. Dobrynin said he had already conveyed Moscow's position on this and had nothing to add.

Returning to the subject later in the meeting, the Secretary recalled his earlier point on the need for an apology and compensation. He said that the crucial positive result of the Otis-Zaytsev meeting was General Zaytsev's agreement to instruct Soviet troops in the GDR not to use force against personnel of our liaison missions. This was a very important undertaking, and the US believed it absolutely essential that this commitment be carried out.

In response, Dobrynin said once again that he had not received any new instructions from Moscow. He added that he had, however, seen General Zaytsev's report of his meeting with General Otis. As he understood it, Dobrynin said, in all restricted areas of the GDR, Soviet troops would have orders not to shoot. Assistant Secretary Burt subsequently phoned Soviet Minister-Counselor Sokolov for a clarification, and the latter said the Soviet order applied not just to restricted areas, but to the entire territory of the GDR.

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